THE

Theatrical Observer:

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 438. *Saturday, April* 19, 1823. *Price* 1*d.*

COVENT GARDEN.

Mrs. COWLEY's Comedy of *The Belle's Stratagem* was presented last night, for the first time for a considerable period. This revival may suit the taste of some; but we must confess we are among those who do not admire the Comedy. There are only two scenes in it worth any thing—namely—that in which *Letitia Hardy* acts the gawky, and that where *Doricourt* acts the madman. The rest are dull and insipid. There is not an act, except the last, but what closes heavily, and fails to leave on the spectator's mind any keen desire for the next rising of the curtain. The Masquerade incident is very common-place; and, indeed, so are all the other points of the Piece.

The two chief characters, *Letitia*, and *Doricourt*, were very pleasantly performed by Mrs. CHATTERLEY, and Mr. C. KEMBLE. The lady distinguished herself at the Haymarket Theatre last season in this part, which she selected for her Benefit; and it has since been considered one of her best performances. There is much versatility of talent required for it, and the actress that can represent *Letitia* skilfully, is justly set down as calculated for the most difficult parts in Comedy. Mrs. CHATTERLEY was well received, and applauded throughout. We regretted much to observe that this interesting lady looked far from well, although she exerted herself with the greatest spirit.

Mr. C. KEMBLE is always at home in characters requiring the qualities of the gentleman. *Doricourt* is one who has not much to distinguish him. He has only to make a little love---to shew a little disappointment---to be a little outré for a few minutes, and to bear a little baiting---and then to become a little ecstatic at the blissful result of his *Belle's Stratagem.* All this Mr. Kemble well pourtrayed, and received his share of applause. Mr. ABBOTT acted *Sir George Touchwood* uncommonly well. He shewed the peculiarities of the over-careful husband in a pointed manner, and several of his speeches were applauded.

Mr. FAWCETT represents *Hardy* very humorously---with his "sixty three!—fiddle-de-dee!" Mr. JONES's *Flutter,* was in his usual light style. We cannot compliment Mr. COMER on his exhibition of the art

of making love. His *Courtall* was not of the Drawing-Room School. When Mr. BAKER next plays *Saville*, and walks forth into the street, would it not be more correct to put his chapeau on his head? And when Mr. BARNES next represents *Dick*, the groom, and is sent a message out of doors, should he not cover his head, also, according to the custom of this country? Miss FOOTE was a charming *Lady Frances Touchwood*---a young, inexperienced, new-made wife, with very virtuous sentiments—much affection and reverence for her husband, but an overwhelming eagerness to see the world, lead on by the mirthful *Widow Racket*, very excellently acted by Mrs. GIBBS; and aided and assisted by the rather tame *Miss Ogle*, of Miss LOVE.

The Vision of the Sun continues to attract greatly.

DRURY-LANE.

THERE was a numerous and very genteel audience here last night, to see Mr. KEAN in his eminent character of *Richard*. This gentleman's return to his triumphs in this metropolis, after a Bonapartean movement and triumph in the Irish metropolis, was marked with much satisfaction by his friends. He exerted himself with all his usual talent, and was, to the last dying speech, applauded to the "very echo." The other characters of the Tragedy were supported by their former representatives, with great propriety; and Mr. COOPER among them, holds a distinguished place, by the sonorous vigour, and manly deportment, which he displays in *Richmond*. We beg to observe that at the conclusion, on the rushing in of a body of Richard's troops, after the tyrant's death, the contest which Richmond maintains against them is very ridiculous. These troops are staid by a flourish of a trumpet, and instantly mingle with the soldiers of Richmond, without the slightest indication of submission. The conquered should at least make a shew of surrender---and Richmond might then give a signal of pardon and friendship.

In *The Chinese Sorcerer*, which followed, we have to remark amongst other attractions, the Dances and Music, which do great credit to the composers.

It is with great pleasure that we find Miss STEPHENS is so speedily restored to health. Perhaps, the public are entirely indebted for this to the skill of DOCTOR LATHAM, her Physician; and, if so, the Public must certainly feel very grateful to that worthy gentleman. We only hope that the Doctor's opinion is in full accordance with the propriety of her coming out so soon, after a severe indisposition. And we take the liberty to suggest to the audience of this evening, to be as profuse as they please of applause, but *not to fatigue their fair favorite with* ENCORES.

Printed by E. THOMAS, Denmark Court, Exeter Change, Strand.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening the Opera of

Rob Roy Macgregor.

Sir Frederick Vernon, Mr EGERTON, Owen, Mr BLANCHARD,
Rashleigh Osbaldistone, Mr ABBOTT, Dougal, Mr COMER,
Francis Osbaldistone, Mr DURUSET, Capt. Thornton, Mr CONNOR
Rob Roy, Mr MACREADY, Major Galbraith, Mr TAYLOR,
Baillie Nicol Jarvie, Mr W. FARREN, Macstuart, Mr MEARS,
Allan, Mr Norris, Macvittie, Mr Atkins, Andrew, Mr Crumpton,
Jobson, Mr King, Sergeant, Mr Grant, Saunders Wylie, Mr Claremont

Dianna Vernon, Miss M. TREE, Martha, Miss GREEN,
Jane Macalpine, Miss SHAW, Helen Macgregor, Mrs FAUCIT,
Mattie, Mrs Sterling, Hostess, Mrs Coates, Katty, Mrs Hudson.

After which, (18th time) a New Tale of Enchantment, called

The Vision of the Sun ;

Or, The ORPHAN OF PERU.

The Overture & Music composed, selected & arranged by Mr WARE.
The whole produced under the direction of Mr FARLEY.
Huania Copac, King of Cusco, Mr CHAPMAN,
Oratzuma, (Heir Presumptive) Mr. Horrebow, Koran, Mrs VINING.
Oultanpac, (the Enchanter of Uxi) Mr FARLEY,
Tycobroc, (his Slave) Mr GRIMALDI, Tacmar, Mr T. P. COOKE
King of the Palace of Silence, Mr Comer,
Ebongauld, (the Genie of Uxi) Mr LEY,

Princess Runac, Miss FOOTE, Ocello (her attendant) Miss LOVE
Cassana, (wife of Tacmar) Mrs. DAVENPORT,
Genie of the Harp, Miss E. SCOTT, Sylph, Madame GOSS.

The following is a Succession of the Scenery.
The Sierras (Mountains) .... (Painted by Grieve)
THE VISION OF THE SUN. (Do.)
The EXTERIOR of the PALACE of CUSCO. (Pugh)
The Golden Lake. (T. Grieve) Runac's Pavilion. (Pugh) The Plains of Cusco
A GRAND TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION. Peruvian Villa. (Pugh)
THE NUPTIAL TEMPLE. (Grieve)
Act II. The Pacific Ocean. (Grieve) PALACE OF SILENCE. (Grieve)
The Grand Court Yard of Cusco. (Pugh)
Oultanpac's Abode...The Vestibule of Do. (Grieve)
THE BLIGHTED FOREST OF LANOS. (W. Grieve)
The Temple of the Lion.
AND THE ROYAL PALACE OF PERU.

On Monday, Macbeth, and The Vision of the Sun.

New Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening the Opera of

The Cabinet.

Prince Orlando, Mr. BRAHAM, Count Curvoso, Mr. GATTIE,
Marquis de Grand Chateau, Mr. FITZWILLIAM,
Lorenzo, Mr HORN, Whimsiculo, Mr HARLEY, Peter, Mr DOWTON
Constantia Miss FORDE, Leonora, Mrs. AUSTIN,
Floretta, Miss STEPHENS, Crudelia, Mrs KNIGHT.
Bianca, Mrs. HARLOWE, Curiosa, Mrs. H. HUGHES,

After which, (17th time) a Superb Spectacle, in 2 acts, called

The Chinese Sorcerer ;

Or, the Emperor and his Three Sons.

The Music by Mess. T. Cooke, Parry, and Horn, The Overture by T. Cooke
The Dances composed by Mr. Noble.

Fong-Whang, the Sorcerer, Mr THOMPSON,
Kein-Long, Emperor of China, Mr POWELL,
Zam-Ti, Mr. COOPER, Kan-Fu, Mr. PENLEY, Pekin, Mr. HARLEY,
Hi-Ho, Confidential Attendant on Fong-Whang, Mr. KNIGHT,
Chop-Stick, a familiar Spirit, attached to Hi-Ho, Mr FITZWILLIAM,
Fum-Hoam, Prime Minister, Mr KING,
Bo-Hea, Sow-Shong, Captains of the Guard, Mr. WALKER, and Mr. READ
Ming, Tong, Tchu, Chiefs of a Horde of Tartar Plunderers,
Messrs. G. SMITH, DOUGLAS, RANDALL,
O-Me, Niece of the Emperor, and Princess of China, Miss. SMITHSON,
Bri-Ti, Orphan Daughter of a poor Fisherman, Mrs. HUGHES,

Ning-Nang,	Ladies of the Imperial Court	Mrs. KNIGHT,
Po-Ning,		Miss FORDE,
Nan-King,		Mrs ORGER,

Quang-Si, the Imprisoned Wife of the Emperor, Mrs. COVENEY.

In Act I.—A GRAND CHINESE BALLET, In Act II. A DANCE

Act I. A ROMANTIC VIEW on the Borders of Tartary—Stanfield
Grand Imperial Palace, and Court of Kein Long——Marinari.
VESTIBULE OF THE PALACE—Read, Andrews, Pitt, &c.
Marine Cottages of Zam-Ti, Pe-Kin, and Kan-Fu. Ascent of the Golden Galley and Conflagration of the Cottages—Stanfield.
Act II.—ILLUMINATED MARINE PAVILION.—Roberts.
Picturesque Dwelling of Pe-Kin and Bri-Ti—Stanfield.
Grand Harbour and Arsenal of the Imperial City—Stanfield.
Rude and Terrific Passage to the Enchanted Valley of Lo-Lo, with a Peep at the Tremendous Necromantic Tower of Hi-Hi—Stanfield.
Interior of the Marine Pavilion of O-Me—Marinari.
SUPERB SALOON, in the Palace of Shi-Fo, with distant Landscape—Roberts
SUPPER GARDEN of O-ME's PAVILION—Roberts.
Cavern of Spectres—Marinari—Magnificent Hall of Tien, superbly decorated for

THE FEAST OF LANTERNS,

On Monday, Othello, with The Chinese Sorcerer.